

2.2.A(5).Bonding: Following the Lord Jesus Mashiach. Mark 1:16-20

Read Mark 1:16-20.

¹⁶ Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, **“Follow me,** and I **will make you become fishers of men.**” ¹⁸ And **immediately they left** their nets and **followed** him. Mark 1:16-18

Background:

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Focus:

1. Be with the Lord. 1:16-17
2. Be Transformed: 1:17
3. Bring others into Kingdom. 1:17
4. Leave to gain new life. 1:18-20

Bond: Follow the Lord Jesus Mashiach.

Learning to walk with a parent helps the infant learn all about his world and how to live in it. And, so it is with your new spiritual life in the Kingdom of God! Your first step to live as a disciple is literally to obey the Call of Jesus Mashiach, "Follow Me!" and to follow him without hesitation! Consider what it means to "follow the Lord Jesus Mashiach" as his disciple, walking on this earth but also learning by faith the Spiritual Realities which

comprise your real and true life with him! For, to walk with the Lord Jesus means to “walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7), learning to be aware of his near presence, the illumination the Word of God gives you to see the *reality* behind the material and visible experience of earth, and to be attuned to the Holy Spirit, the very life of God in you as the Spirit leads, convicts, teaches, and gives you knowledge and insight!

Above all things, remember this: your call to “Follow me” is the call to *bond* with Jesus Mashiach as your Lord. There is no higher call or love than this bond between you. Never lapse into the fleshly carelessness to think the *vibrant life* of bonding with the Lord himself can be *replaced* with the more convenient substitutes. Yes, if you bond with the person of Jesus, you will also follow his way, his word, his mission. But, it is

too easy to merely follow his “word” and lose sight of the person (John 5:39-40); to follow his way and neglect his personal *leading*, or to follow his mission and let it become merely your own personal ambition.

1. Be with the Lord. 1:16-17

So, when Jesus calls to you, “Follow Me,” he is calling you first to be with him, to walk beside him, to follow him and walk, hand-in-hand in this world. For He says to you, “And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the Age” (Matthew 28:20).

In your first steps of learning to follow Jesus, let you first be drawn to come before him and his presence prayerfully. Think of David’s words in Psalm 63:1 and say to the Lord, “earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no

water.” May your soul realize that what it thirst for is the *living water* found in Jesus alone (John 4:10). Know that of all that things you encounter on earth, you will only find a “dry and weary land” until you come close to Jesus. Call out to Him, like David and Thomas in the presence of the living Lord, “My Lord and My God!” (John 20:28).

2. Be Transformed: 1:17

You will find that in drawing near to know and respond to the Lord will change you. You will be nourished by the rich “vine” of your new life (John 15:5), and you will begin to mature as a spiritual being from infancy to a mature childhood.

So, when Jesus calls you, he says: “Follow me, and I will **make you become....**” In other words, your growth is the result of the Lord God’s “work” in you. First of all, this work is by “grace” and not by human and fleshly work. In other words, forbid

that you think that you are the “designer” of your spiritual growth. In the previous church age, the church stagnated by the proliferation of *fleshly growth tools* that presumed to replace the Lord’s own handiwork that people fashioned themselves into mere reflections of the popular Christian culture or marketplace, but sterile in terms of bearing spiritual fruit.

Instead, endeavor to be the Lord’s own “workmanship” so “created in Mashiach Jesus to do good works” that God prepares for you to do (Ephesians 2:9).

Now, what is the nature of what you are to become? As with human growth, you can surrender to, nourish, and manage the growth process. Spiritually, you do this by simply surrendering to the Spirit’s work as it “puts to death the deeds of the flesh” and replaces this

with the Spirit's new life (Romans 8:13). Put off the old, sacrificing and surrendering the things of this world, so that you can be furnished with the Lord's new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Most importantly, that you might grow to resemble the Lord Jesus Mashiach so that he might be the first born of many brothers! (Romans 8:28-30)

Thus, you will "mature" and grow up in your new life as Jesus Mashiach works in your life and transforms you. But, this growth is not in a spiritual vacuum, lest you think you are a spiritual being *forever* meant to live in this world's fleshly and material realm. No, you grow up to become stronger, more effective, and more fruitful in the unseen reality of the Lord's Family and Kingdom! For, the more you grow, the more people you can help both in the brotherhood of the Household and in the world, as the Kingdom rescues the lost!

3. Bring others into Kingdom. 1:17

Thus, when you walk with Jesus, you are bonding with him, growing, and for the purpose of having a kingdom impact. For, you were not meant to live a solitary life in the Kingdom but rather to fill it with people you love—friends, families, relatives, co-workers, all whom the Lord will bring into the Kingdom through you!

So, Jesus Mashiach finishes his call by saying, “Follow Me, and I will make you become ***fishers of men!***” Realizing that “fishing” was the very life of these first disciples, Jesus calls them to “fish” for men. Not just in their spare time, or recreationally, or as an option. But, as integral in the new life which is rooted in the Family of God and his expanding Kingdom.

Not with a single line, isolating contact to only a few select and rare people. Rather, like a net thrown across a wide area, you are to bring the Kingdom's *wide net* to the expansive reach of all whom the Lord has brought into your life, beginning with those nearest and dearest to you! That is why, makes this central calling to "fish" for people a central part of his commission to the church, saying "Disciple the nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Of course, as a disciple learning to *walk* with the Lord, you will simply observe first how the Lord expands the net of his Kingdom. In your casting, know that the Lord and his new life will always be what attracts people to the Kingdom!

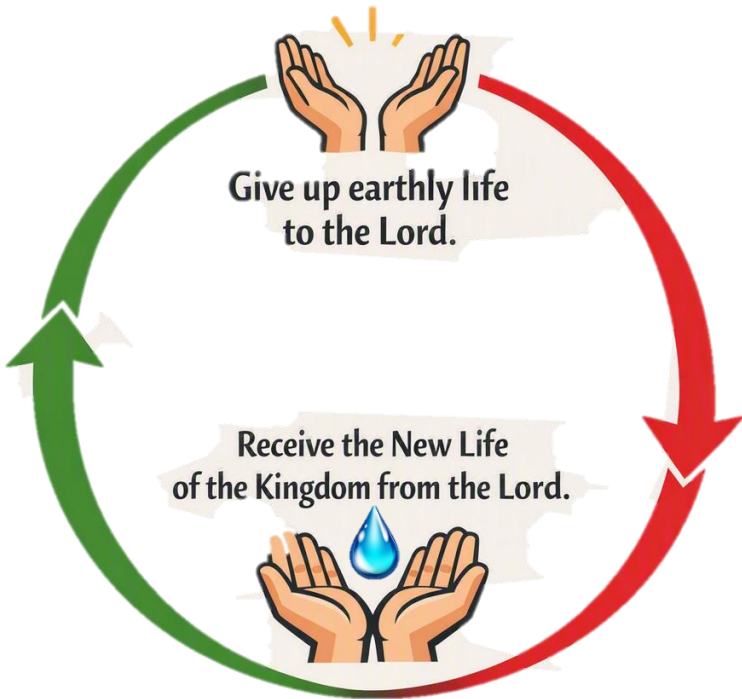
4. Leave to gain new life. 1:18-20

Finally, these men experienced the fullness of the Kingdom and the rewards of walking with Jesus

immediately, because they learn the secret of walking with the Lord: the importance of acting with *immediacy*. When Jesus calls you, your first impulse is to get up and act in response to his powerful call. For example, when Jesus called Peter to join him in walking on the water, Peter stood on the water because he was responding to the call of Jesus: The Lord always gives you the power to obey His call.

So, when Jesus called the first disciples, they “immediately left their nets (18)... their father Zebedee (20)... and “the hired servants” to follow him. Leave means to not only “let go” but also to “leave in his hands”—to entrust to, sacrifice, offer to Jesus the things of this life that He might give you what is Kingdom-new! This is the secret of Kingdom growth—to offer up what is old and

fleshly of this world to receive the Kingdom and its life. This is called the process of “redemption”:



Question:

Further Discovery: